

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Department of State

INCOMING
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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ BUENOS AIRES 2690

E.O. 12065: GDS (3/27/86) (CASTRO, RAUL) OR-M
 TAGS: MILI SHUM PFOR AR
 SUBJ: AWARDS TO ARGENTINE MILITARY

REF: 79 BUENOS AIRES 6454

1. (C) ENTIRE TEXT

2. IN THE REFERENCED MESSAGE SENT LAST AUGUST, I OUT-
 LINED POLICY ESTABLISHED AT THIS POST FOR THE AWARD OF
 US DECORATIONS TO ARGENTINE OFFICERS. BECAUSE OF THE
 POSSIBILITY OF EMBARRASSMENT TO THE USG ARISING FROM
 AWARDS TO OFFICERS WHO MIGHT HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN GROSS
 HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS, I REQUESTED THAT HENCEFORTH
 AWARDS FOR SERVICE IN THE US BE MADE
 PRIOR TO THE OFFICERS DEPARTURE FROM THE US.

3. THREE CASES HAVE NOW ARISEN OF OFFICERS WHO DE-
 PARTED THE US PRIOR TO REFTEL AND WHOSE AWARDS HAVE
 BEEN RECENTLY FORWARDED FOR PRESENTATION. THEY ARE:
 (A) LEGION OF MERIT TO MAJOR GENERAL HIPOLITO MARIANI,
 AAF, AIR ATTACHE TO WASHINGTON FROM JANUARY 1978 -
 FEBRUARY 1979.

(B) AIR FORCE COMMENDATION MEDAL TO LT. COL. BENITO
 WIERNA, AAF, INSTRUCTOR USAF ACADEMY FROM JUNE 1977 -
 JULY 1979.

(C) AIR FORCE COMMENDATION MEDAL TO LT. COL. RAUL MUJICA,
 AAF, INSTRUCTOR AT INTER AMERICAN AIR FORCE ACADEMY
 FOR MARCH 1977 - MARCH 1979.

WE HAVE REVIEWED THE FILES OF ALL ELEMENTS OF THIS
 MISSION AND THE RECORD OF ASSIGNMENTS OF THESE THREE
 OFFICERS. WE CAN FIND NO INFORMATION TO SUGGEST THAT
 THEY WERE INVOLVED IN OR APPROVED ACTIONS ABUSING
 HUMAN RIGHTS, AND WE ARE SATISFIED THAT AWARDS TO THEM
 FOR SATISFACTORY SERVICE AT US SERVICE SCHOOLS OR AS
 ATTACHES SHOULD NOT BE INTERPRETED AS REWARDING HUMAN
 RIGHTS VIOLATORS.

4. SINCE THESE OFFICERS AWARDS WERE EARNED BUT NOT
 PRESENTED BEFORE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE POLICY SET
 FORTH IN REFTEL, AND THE POSSIBILITY OF EMBARRASSMENT
 TO THE USG ARISING FROM THE AWARDS IS REMOTE, I RE-
 QUEST THE DEPARTMENT'S CONCURRENCE IN THE PRESENTATION
 OF THESE AWARDS. AN AWARD CEREMONY IS PLANNED FOR
 17 APRIL 1980 DURING VISIT OF MAJOR GENERAL TANGUY,
 USAFSC,
 CASTRO

Department of State, A/GIS/IPS/SRP

Change to

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Exemptions b () () E.O. 13526 25x () ()

Declassify after

With concurrence of:

IPS by Q obtained not obt.
 Date 11-16

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ARA SAYS
 MAJ. GEN.
 TANGUY WAS
 NOT REQUIRED
 TO OBTAIN STATE
 CLEARANCE FOR
 HIS VISIT. PANAMA
 CANAL ZONE-BASED
 OFFICERS MUST OBTAIN
 STATE CLEARANCE FOR
 TRAVEL ONLY TO
 CUBA AND
 CHINA, ACC
 ARA

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Argentina (3 of 4)